

Washington State Patrol

Media Release

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Driver Arrested Possessing a Stolen Gun

Vancouver – On November 16, 2006 at approximately 9:15 am, Troopers Bennie Taylor and Charles Gardiner assigned to the Serious Highway Crime Action Team (SHCAT) were working a Laser speed measuring device on northbound I-205 just south of NE 134th Street (Milepost 35).

Trooper Taylor observed a 2005 Hyundai SUV traveling in the right appearing to be faster than the 60 MPH posted zone. The Hyundai came through the speed measuring device at 81 MPH.

Taylor stopped the Hyundai and made contact with the driver and passenger requesting the drivers license, registration and insurance card. Taylor observed the driver appeared to be extremely nervous as he dug through the glove box for the documents. When the driver was noticeably not locating the documents, Taylor asked who the owner of the Hyundai. The driver was only able to provide a first name of "John", stating he didn't know a last name. Taylor again asked the driver for his license. The driver was identified by his license as Raudel O. Sanchez-Fernandez, a 28 year old resident of Milwaukie, Oregon.



Trooper Gardiner arrived to assist Taylor. Taylor asked Sanchez-Fernandez to step out the Hyundai. Sanchez-Fernandez gave Taylor consent to search the Hyundai. The passenger was asked out of the Hyundai. Taylor conducted the search finding behind the backseat a plastic grocery bag containing a loaded HI-POINT 9mm hand gun with 15 additional 9mm bullets. Taylor immediately handcuffed both Sanchez-Fernandez and the passenger. A check of the guns serial number revealed it was reported stolen in Kelso.

Sanchez-Fernandez advised Taylor the passenger had no knowledge of the gun. He stated he had bought the gun from a guy (not knowing) on the streets in Portland. Sanchez-Fernandez wouldn't say why he needed a gun.

The passenger identified as George Estephan Garza, a 28 year old resident of Vancouver was released.

Sanchez-Fernandez was booked into the Clark County Jail for Possessing a Stolen Firearm and Concealed Firearm without a Permit.

The Serious Highway Crime Action Team is committed to aggressively detecting and apprehending all individuals involved in serious criminal activity involving a motor vehicle.

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